



Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to the first E-newsletter of the 2016.

1. The CASLE Office & Improving Communication

For future communication, it would be extremely helpful if you could provide the name and contact details of someone who has a permanent role within your organisation and could act as the CASLE point of contact for receiving and disseminating information on behalf of CASLE.

An E-news publication is now the main means of communicating information to members about CASLE activities, both those that have taken place, and forthcoming events. Email and Skype conferencing is the main means of regular contact with Management Board members. We are always grateful to receive information from member professional societies and associate members.

The CASLE Office continues to be located at the University of the West of England (UWE) in Bristol. It is run by Susan Spedding, the Secretary General, who also acts as the Administrative Secretary. CASLE is grateful to the University for its assistance to CASLE in many ways. Tel: +44(0) 117 328 3036 Email: susan.spedding@uwe.ac.uk

2. CASLE Strategy & Workplan

At the CASLE General Assembly in Takoradi, Ghana in March 2015, it was decided to update the CASLE Strategy and Work Plan under the heading '2020 Vision' to reflect the more modern, streamlined, forward looking organisation that CASLE has become and the way forward to 2020. We strongly encourage our member associations and individual and group members to let us have any ideas for the future development of CASLE in bullet points to susan.spedding@uwe.ac.uk

3. CASLE Liaison

International Property Measurement Standards Coalition

Mr Max Crofts is Chairman of the Standard Setting Committee. Mrs Susan Spedding is a Trustee of the Coalition and Mr Tony Westcott is the alternate. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is a member of CASLE and is also a member of IPMS, as is the Real Estate Institute of Zimbabwe (REIZ).

International Construction Measurement Standards Coalition

Dr Patrick Manu was elected to the Standard Setting Committee of the ICMS Coalition and Mrs Susan Spedding is a Trustee of the Coalition. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and The Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) are members of CASLE and also members of ICMS.

International Ethics Standards Coalition

Mr Brian Waldy is a Trustee of the Coalition and Mrs Susan Spedding is the alternate. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), The Royal Institution of Surveyors, Malaysia RISM), The Ghana Institution of Surveyors (GHIS), The Nigerian Institute of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV) are members of IESC and also of CASLE.

International Land Measurement Standards Coalition

Members of the Management Board have unanimously supported an invitation to CASLE to join the above coalition.

4. CASLE Research Collaboration

'An Evaluation of Property Valuation Practice in sub-Saharan Africa'

The final report on this collaborative RICS research project between the University of the West of England (UWE), CASLE, the Ghana Institution of Surveyors (GhIS) and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST) was submitted to RICS at the end of November 2015. The research findings will be disseminated through the CASLE newsletter, website and at the CASLE conference in Abuja, Nigeria in 2016 and will also form the basis of a good research paper to be submitted to a prestigious journal.

'Influencing Improvement in Ethical Practices: Perceptions of Built Environment Surveying Professionals'

The initial CASLE/UWE Research project which was undertaken by Dr Patrick Manu and Mr Tony Westcott has been completed but further research is recommended to investigate the reasons behind areas of possible concern. The research is continuing and the findings will be disseminated through the CASLE newsletter, website and at the CASLE conference in Abuja, Nigeria in 2016.

5. CASLE Regional News

New Members of CASLE

We are pleased to welcome the following as member associations and group associate members:-

- The Department of Surveying and Land Studies at the University of Technology, Lae, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea.
- The Real Estate Institute of Zimbabwe who recently applied to rejoin CASLE.
- The Institute of Valuers of Sri Lanka who recently applied to rejoin CASLE.
- The Technical University of Kenya, School of Surveying & Geospatial Technologies.

Individual Associate membership

We are very pleased to welcome Dr Mohammed Razzak, District Registrar at the Ministry of Law & Justice in the Bangladesh Government.

Royal Institution of Surveyors of Malaysia (RISM)

Dato Lau Wai Seang reported that RISM, through the Valuation Practice Committee of the Board of Valuers, Appraisers and Estate Agents, Malaysia, has been involved in the following:-

- drafting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Valuation Standards through the Valuation Practice Committee of the Board of Valuers, Appraisers and Estate Agents, Malaysia.
- reviewing the Malaysian Valuation Standards (MVS) through the Valuation Practice Committee of the Board of Valuers, Appraisers and Estate Agents, Malaysia.

RISM is party to punitive actions against illegal Real Estate agents through its joint participation with other related organisations, involving punitive recourse from the police and local authorities.

RISM jointly with other related organisations successfully obtained the agreement of the Ministry of Finance, Malaysia to revise the Goods & Services Tax (GST) regime for the management bodies of stratified residential developments from Standard-Rated Model to the Zero-Rated Model.

RISM participated in both the National and International Excellence Award Competition of FIABCI as the Panel Judges of both competitions

2015 ECOSOC High-Level Segment - Confirmation of Written Statement

A paper which was submitted by Professor Dr Alan Spedding in response to a request by the 2015 High-Level Segment (HLS) of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), for comments focusing on the theme "Managing the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals: what it will take" was accepted by ECOSOC for distribution to all participants to the HLS. The Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (OESC) congratulated CASLE on continued contributions to the work of the Council.

Habitat Professionals Forum

Mr Brian Waldy is the CASLE representative to the Habitat Professional's Forum (HPF), which was founded in 1999 with CASLE as a founding member and which has a strong relationship with UN-Habitat. At the PrepCom2 meeting in April 2015 at UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya, the decision was taken to set up 10 Policy Units and each participating organisation in HPF was given the opportunity to propose experts for two of the policy units. CASLE was assigned the following two units and the two experts proposed by CASLE were accepted:

Policy Unit 5 - Municipal Finances & Local Fiscal Systems.

CASLE proposed Mr Gasant Jacobs, who is Director of Business Development for Thomson Reuters in Sub-Saharan Africa, dealing with Tax and Accounting in the Government Business unit and is based in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Policy Unit 10 – Housing Policies.

CASLE proposed Mr Michael Lister, a Chartered Surveyor and a very experienced Consultant in this field.

6. CASLE Events 2016



Sustainability of the Surveying Professions & National Development in the 21st Century

21st – 23rd April 2016

Abuja - Nigeria

The above CASLE international conference in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute of Surveyors (NIS), the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) and the Nigerian Institute of Estate Surveyors & Valuers (NIESV) is scheduled to take place at the NAF Conference Centre, Kado District, Abuja, Nigeria from 21st to 23rd April 2016. The theme is 'Sustainability of the Surveying Professions & National Development in the 21st Century'. We are attaching a conference flyer including a registration form and details will also be posted on the website.

7. Commonwealth News

Commonwealth Secretariat's 50th Anniversary

The Secretary-General H.E. Kamallesh Sharma extended a warm welcome to the Commonwealth family to help to mark the occasion with a party at Marlborough House on Friday 10th July 2015. CASLE was represented by Mr Brian Waldy (Commonwealth Liaison) and Mrs Kate Waldy

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Mr Joseph Ajanlekoko President, Mr Brian Waldy, Europe President were both accredited to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta from 23rd to 29th November 2015. Mr Ajanlekoko was also accredited to the Commonwealth Business Forum in Malta. Professor Mrs Chitra Weddikkara was also accredited but was unable to attend due to illness.

Mr Joseph Olusegun Ajanlekoko, President of CASLE and Mr Brian Waldy, Europe President of CASLE and Commonwealth Liaison accepted an invitation to a reception given at St James's Palace on Tuesday 27th October 2015 by HM The Queen for representatives of Commonwealth Organisations in advance of The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).



Her Majesty the Queen meeting Mr Joseph Olusegun Ajanlekoko, President of CASLE



Her Majesty the Queen meeting Mr Brian Waldy, Europe President & Commonwealth Liaison

Commonwealth Secretariat Press Releases - September 2015

Youth leaders from Commonwealth countries in the Pacific called for greater action to support countries threatened by climate change and for governments to empower young people to participate in decision-making processes. The plea was issued by representatives from Australia, Fiji, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu at the Youth Leaders' Forum which took place in Samoa.

Youth Ministers from Commonwealth countries in the Pacific vowed to champion a greater focus on young people in decision-making processes to achieve new global sustainable development goals. In a joint statement strategies were agreed to ensure that youth empowerment and development priorities are included in national and regional frameworks.

A new Commonwealth project to help Sierra Leone enhance export competitiveness by improving product packaging was launched in September in Freetown. The project designed by the Commonwealth secretariat in partnership with the Sierra Leone Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Sierra Leone Investment and export Promotion Agency seeks to boost the country's economic recovery in the aftermath of the Ebola crisis by increasing the value of exports.

Commonwealth Secretary-General H.E. Kamallesh Sharma visited Bangladesh in September at the invitation of the Prime Minister, Hon Sheikh Hasina. In Dhaka Mr Sharma briefed the Government on preparations for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta in November 2015.

Mr Sharma attended the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa where more than 900 young people aged between 14 and 18 competed for 107 gold medals in nine sports.

The Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Deodat Maharaj called for 'coherent global action' to conserve fish stocks and deliver a fisheries trade deal that supports small and developing countries at a conference co-hosted with UNTAD in Geneva, Switzerland. In a statement he said that, if the world is to eliminate overfishing and destructive fishing practices by 2020, a key task will be to translate targets into trade rules at the World Trade Organisation.

October 2015

Commonwealth Finance Ministers discussed the need for developing countries to be more active in global negotiations to prevent international tax avoidance and illegal tax evasion.

Young entrepreneurs across East Africa have formed a regional coalition of youth business organisations entitled the Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs - East Africa and includes fifteen organisations from six countries: Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania and Uganda. The East African coalition is modelled on similar Commonwealth Alliances in Asia and the Caribbean plus Canada, which bring entrepreneurs together in their respective regions. It will be supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat's Youth Division.

November 2015

The Commonwealth-wide Youth Worker of the Year for 2015 has been awarded to Victor Ochen, founder of the African Youth Initiative Network, a Ugandan NGO that works to empower young people to promote democratic leadership and civic engagement in communities that have faced conflict.

On receiving his award, Victor said: "In Africa we need peace. So we must look at the ingredients of peace - democracy, participation, generational inclusion, gender inclusion, diversity - and focus our positive energy on acknowledging, profiling and amplifying the voices of the voiceless."

The Commonwealth Women's Forum called on member governments to meet a 30 per cent target for women in leadership and adopt strong initiatives to boost the number of female entrepreneurs.

The new Commonwealth Secretary-General

In what was a true breakthrough for gender equality in the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland of Dominica was elected as the new Commonwealth Secretary-General – the first woman to hold the post! Baroness Scotland, the former UK Attorney General, will take over from H.E. Mr Kamallesh Sharma of India on the 1st April 2016.

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 27th to 29th November Leaders' Statement

1. We met in Malta from 27th to 29th November 2015 for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. In a year of exceptional global challenges and opportunities, the summit convened under the theme, 'The Commonwealth: Adding Global Value', with the aim of addressing issues of common concern and bringing tangible benefits to our citizens.
2. We discussed peace and security, especially the fight against radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism, which are worldwide threats. We condemn terrorism and violence by extremist groups, which often target vulnerable groups and individuals. These threats should not be associated with any particular religion, race, nationality or ethnicity.
3. We agreed that such threats must be countered through strong national, regional and international action and co-operation. We renewed our commitment to implement national strategies to counter threats and to support each other. We agreed that it is imperative to counter the use of the internet by extremist groups to radicalise and recruit fighters. We call upon all member governments to implement fully their obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014).

4. We recognise the particular role that can be played by the Commonwealth, including through implementing the recommendations of the Commonwealth report, Civil Paths to Peace, and we are committed to harnessing the potential of the full family of Commonwealth governments and organisations in a coordinated way.
5. We welcome the newly established Commonwealth Countering Violent Extremism Unit and mandated it to advance the Commonwealth's role in international efforts to counter extremism, especially through civil society networks and education.
6. 2015 has been a year of global achievements especially with regard to sustainable development for all. Our discussion was inspired by the clear links between the values of the Sustainable Development Goals and the values of the Commonwealth Charter, both of which affirm that human rights, the rule of law, accountable institutions at all levels, and the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies are essential for sustainable development.
7. We welcomed the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These show the commitment of all world leaders to address the challenge of financing and the need to create an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity. We recognised the economic potential that can be unlocked by tackling discrimination and exclusion. We reaffirmed our commitment to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and agreed to support a strong role for the Commonwealth in championing its implementation.
8. We highlighted the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. We also recognised that the development of a sustainably managed 'blue economy' offers significant opportunities for economic growth and general development for many Commonwealth member states.
9. Migration, if properly harnessed and managed, can deliver economic and social benefits which improve the resilience and prosperity of Commonwealth member states. We underlined the importance of safe, orderly and regular migration and of ensuring full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of all migrants as well as refugees and displaced persons. We agreed to enhance national and international efforts to address the causes of irregular migration. We are deeply concerned by the increase in flows of refugees, asylum seekers and irregular migrants which entails suffering, abuse and exploitation, particularly for children and women, and unacceptable loss of life. We also acknowledge that the worsening impacts of climate change will increase climate-induced migration, and note the need to formulate appropriate response mechanisms to address it. We are committed to responding decisively, guided by the principles of solidarity, partnership and shared responsibility. We noted the outcomes of the recent Valletta Summit on Migration, and call on all concerned to work towards enduring solutions.
10. With our CHOGM taking place on the eve of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, climate change featured high on our agenda. We met in a Special Executive Session to discuss climate action, recognising the leadership exercised historically by the Commonwealth on this urgent and pressing issue, and we adopted the Commonwealth Leaders' Statement on Climate Action.
11. We are conscious that 31 of our members are small states, which have their own particular strengths and opportunities as well as vulnerabilities in addressing today's global challenges, especially climate change. We welcome and encourage the continuing support of the Commonwealth, including advocacy and technical assistance, to support small states in building their resilience, advancing growth and prosperity, and creating a better future for their citizens.
12. In taking note of the reports of the four pre-CHOGM Forums, we thank all concerned for their contribution to our summit, and particularly welcomed the first Women's Forum. We recognise the valuable role that civil society organisations can play in advancing Commonwealth values and principles.
13. Young people, who comprise 60% of the Commonwealth's population, have an important role in building stable, secure and prosperous societies. We undertook to promote youth participation in national development and peace building.

14. Corruption is a significant challenge facing the world today. We agreed to work together to strengthen international, regional and national responses to corruption including through enhanced transparency and collaboration among law enforcement bodies. The Commonwealth is doing important work to address corruption and this should be strengthened in future.
15. We reaffirmed our shared and enduring commitment to the values and principles of the Commonwealth Charter. We are dedicated to achieving continued renewal of the Commonwealth as an association of governments and peoples, and a rich diversity of organisations that support them. With this in mind, we agreed to launch the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub, the Commonwealth Trade Finance Facility, and the Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence. We are convinced that these will add value that enhances the Commonwealth's relevance and practical impact.
16. During our summit, a number of us dedicated our attention to the fight against poliomyelitis. Since 1988, polio cases have decreased by over 99%. This is a remarkable achievement, but more needs to be done to make polio the second disease in human history to be eradicated. To this end, we agreed that accelerated action and renewed financial support are needed to eradicate polio.
17. We are deeply grateful for the warm and generous hospitality extended by the President, Prime Minister and Government, and people of Malta.
18. We adopt herewith the Communiqué, which records the full breadth of matters addressed during our Meeting. Malta – 29th November 2015

8. Website

CASLE has one website (www.casle.org)

The website is also a valuable source of information about CASLE activities.

9. The CASLE Constitution

A copy of the Constitution is available on the CASLE website. www.casle.org

10. Manuals

The second edition of the CASLE 'Guide to Dispute Resolution relating to Matters affecting Real Estate' and the 'CASLE Manual on Building Maintenance' are still available for purchase from the CASLE Office.

11. Subscriptions

Since the decision by the Commonwealth Foundation to dispense with core and activity grants we have become more reliant on the annual subscriptions of our member associations, group and individual associate members. **We would be most grateful if all our members would ensure that their subscriptions for 2015 to 2016 are paid.**

CASLE E-newsletter - January 2016